



PRESCRIBED FIRE NOTIFICATION

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
LAS CRUCES FIELD OFFICE ■ 1800 MARQUESS ■ LAS CRUCES NM 88005

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BLM prescribes fire at Dripping Springs

Smoke will be highly visible to Las Cruces area residents next week

- Who:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire crew and two engines, with support from one out-of-area 20-man hand crew and two additional engines.
- What:** 45-acre prescribed burn of grasses and shrubs (this burn is a re-burn of an area the BLM treated in 1998, so there are more grasses than shrubs – the anticipated and desired effect of the initial prescribed burn.)
- Where:** Dripping Springs recreation area, Organ Mountains, Las Cruces, NM.
- When:** June 1 – 2, 2005
- Why:** *Safety* – to reduce fuel loading to prevent unplanned fires in this popular recreation area as weather gets hotter and dryer; continue *reintroduction of fire* for a healthy, fire adaptive ecosystem. Last winter the southern part of New Mexico received more moisture than in the past few years. As a result, brushy and grassy fuels have had a chance to regenerate. Conducting a prescribed burn now will create a safe area in the popular Organ Mountains, where human fire use (campfires) and lightning strikes can start fires. Because fuels have had an opportunity to grow, chances for unplanned fires could increase later in the season when relative humidity levels drop and temperatures rise. This re-burn will create a safe zone – an area for visitors to go to so they will not be impacted in the event of an unplanned wildfire.
- How:** Fire crews will create a hand dug, 4-foot wide fire break as a fireline boundary on June 1, then conduct the prescribed burn starting on June 2.

Community Impacts: The Dripping Springs Recreation Area will be closed to the public on June 1 & 2; smoke will be highly visible to community residents during the early morning burn.

The 1998 prescribed burn was highly successful with excellent ecosystem results. BLM anticipates similar positive improvements as a result of this burn.

